

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

ENHANCEMENT OF FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFER

WHAT:

Crop production is annually deferred immediately adjacent to an existing forested riparian buffer to provide a native herbaceous zone of vegetation beneficial for wildlife. This zone will benefit integrated pest management and improve the filtering capacity of the forested riparian buffer.

WHEN:

Cropping ceases within the corridor beginning the next growing season following approval of the enhancement and scheduling in the contract. This area will not be cropped for the remainder of the contract.

WHERE:

This enhancement is allowed along those portions of cropland fields that have existing forested riparian buffers that are at least 35 feet wide beginning at the top of the stream bank, edge of a water body or other sensitive area. This zone, referred as zone three of the riparian buffer, will begin immediately at tree or shrub line and extend in width into the crop field.

HOW:

No plant establishment will be required within the deferred area. Natural regeneration of herbaceous plants will be allowed to occur. The herbaceous plant community must be maintained to the extent that at least 80 percent ground cover persists throughout and no erosion is occurring. The invasion of woody plants must be controlled by the landowner. Maintenance practices that may be used by the landowner include:

- a. Lime and fertilizer applications as needed.
- b. Mowing to control noxious weeds and woody invasion. Mowing is restricted to no more than once annually outside the primary nesting season of April 15 to August 15.
- c. Herbicide applications to control noxious weeds as approved by NRCS and limited to spot treatment for the infested area only.

No haying, grazing, or the establishment of an introduced grass is allowed in this area.

HOW MUCH:

All approved areas will average at least 50 feet in width. Average widths will allow for the cropland field edge to be as straight as possible. Markers on the crop field edge will be required every 500 feet to protect against encroachment with planting equipment. CSP Enhancement payments will be \$100.00 per acre per year based on the total acreage deferred from cropping.